



## ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Felecia A. Rotellini  
Superintendent of Financial Institutions

Janet Napolitano  
Governor

### **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **WESTERN UNION PAYS ARIZONA \$3 MILLION CONSENT AGREEMENT RESOLVES VIOLATIONS OF LAWS TARGETING ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND MONEY TRANSMISSION**

PHOENIX – Western Union Financial Services, Inc. has agreed to pay the state of Arizona \$3 million for violations of state and federal laws combating illegal immigration and money laundering. Governor Janet Napolitano and Arizona Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) Superintendent Felecia Rotellini made the announcement today.

Western Union has also agreed to suspend or terminate its relationship with certain agents that operate in Arizona on its behalf; to implement an enhanced compliance program; and to meet with DFI on a quarterly basis to address compliance and supervision of its agents.

DFI, working with investigators from the Arizona Attorney General's Office, determined that Western Union and its agents were obtaining hard to read or unusable information on the identity of senders and receivers of transmissions at some of its locations. Additionally, DFI found Western Union's record keeping was lax, and that the company did not properly supervise its agents as required by state law and the Attorney General's Geographic Targeting Order 2005-1 (GTO), designed specifically to detect financial crimes that facilitate illegal immigration.

Governor Napolitano said, "Human and drug smuggling rings cannot function without the flow of funds. This investigation -- the largest of its kind -- is a prime example of how we are bankrupting these rings and kicking them out of Arizona."

Under the terms of the Consent Order, Western Union agrees to terminate its relationships with eight agents; to suspend its relationship with 6 additional agents until an adequate compliance program is in place; to pay a civil money penalty of \$1.6 million; to pay \$1 million dollars to the Governor Napolitano's Arizona Fraudulent Identification Task Force; and to contribute matching funds to a federally mandated study of state contracting.

"I am proud of the work of our examiners on this case. The regulation of money transmitters in Arizona is one of my priorities," said Superintendent Rotellini. "We will have a zero tolerance for those transmitters who are facilitating illegal immigration by failing to comply with the GTO and Arizona law."

The Consent Order is enclosed in PDF form and is available on DFI's website: [www.azdfi.gov](http://www.azdfi.gov)